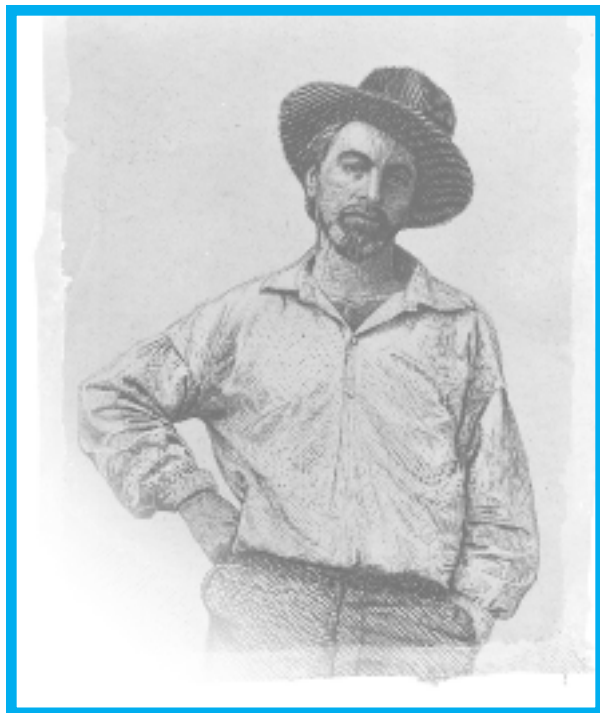


PREVIEW

Walt Whitman's Poetry

Summary In the Preface to the 1855 Edition of *Leaves of Grass*, the speaker says the United States is a great poem. In “Song of Myself,” he describes himself. Then, he considers the grass as a symbol of immortality. The speaker leaves a lecture on the stars to view the heavens in “perfect silence” in “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer.” “By the Bivouac’s Fitful Flame” is a poem that considers the army, life, and death. The speaker tells about carpenters, masons, and other workers in “I Hear America Singing.” In “A Noiseless Patient Spider,” the speaker compares a spider’s work to that of a soul trying to become attached to something.



Note-taking Guide

Write the main idea of each poem in this chart.

Poem	Main Idea
<i>from</i> Preface to the 1855 Edition of <i>Leaves of Grass</i>	
<i>from</i> Song of Myself	
When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer	
By the Bivouac's Fitful Frame	
I Heard America Singing	
A Noiseless Patient Spider	